TABLE XV

435 Byelorussia: Prices in Ration Stores and Gastronomes, June 1946
(in roubles)

Commodity	Ration stores Unit	Price	Gastronomes Unit	Price
Cheddar cheese	kilogram	29.50[1]	kilogram	280.00
Sugar, granulated	"	5.00	"	120.00
Evaporated milk	14½ ounce can	2.60[1]	small can	70.00
Canned meat	" " "	17.50[1]	" "	55.00
Tea	100 grams	5.00	100 grams	22.50

1 UNRRA supplies

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

465 435 In the same month (June 1946) the UNRRA Mission estimated the average monthly earnings of a semi-skilled urban worker to be approximately 500 roubles, while the average for skilled workers was some 300 roubles higher. Thus the purchasing power of the average worker in terms of free market prices was low; a kilogram of cheese would cost him half a month's earnings. However, many factories operate low-priced cafeterias and factory workers receive priority for clothing and housing. Those who exceed their production quota receive further privileges.

465 The following table gives the average monthly earnings in June 1946 of four Byelorussian factories as reported to UNRRA Mission observers by the factories' managers.

TABLE XVI

465 Average Monthly Earnings in Four Byelorussian Factories, June 1946
(in roubles)

Radio factory, Minsk	
Most skilful workers	1,500
Ordinary workers	800 to 850
Beginners	150 to 200
Match and plywood factory, Borisov	
Honour brigade	700
Average for all workers	500 to 600
Lowest paid workers	200 to 300
Garment factory, Vitebsk	
One cutter, exceptionally skilled	2,000
Cutters	1,200
Most skilful operators	600
Sewing machine operators	200 to 500
Brick factory, Polotsk	
Best workers	400 to 450
All workers	300
Lowest paid workers	250

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

435 In September 1946 a decree of the Government of the U.S.S.R. announced an increase in the prices of rationed goods and a reduction in commercial prices (such as those charged in gastronomes). This measure was designed to facilitate the abolition at a later date of the rationing system and the establishment of one unified state price for all goods.

465 In order that the increase of ration prices should not fall too heavily on the lower income groups, workers earning less than 900 roubles a month were simultaneously granted a wage increase on a sliding scale, those earning less receiving a greater increase.[1]

The latest report received lists the following average wages paid in the R.S.S.R.

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1 Increases were as follows: 110 roubles a month for those earning up to 300 roubles; 100 for those earning up to 500; 90 for those earning up to 700; 80 for those earning up to 900.

TABLE XVII

•465

Average Monthly Earnings in Byelorussia, May 1947
(in roubles)

Government minister	3,000
Office manager)	1,200 to 1,500
Shop supervisor)	
Skilled cutter in garment factory	1,200 to 2,000
Chief cook	1,000
Assistant Cook	500
Chauffeur	700 to 800
Civil servant in government office	700 to 800
Skilled machine operator in radio factory) match and plywood factory) garment factory) co-operative shoe artel) co-operative clothing factory)	700 to 800
Waitress)	350
Charwoman)	
Factory apprentice (beginner)	200

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

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Proceeds of Sale of UNRRA Supplies

When UNRRA supplies are sold, the Byelorussian Government, in accordance with the terms of the UNRRA agreement, uses the proceeds for further relief and rehabilitation projects within the Republic. From December 1945 to the end of 1946, the net proceeds of sales (after deduction of distribution costs) amounted to 656,658,000 roubles, which were expended for health and welfare services; the rehabilitation of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; industry and utilities; and on social insurance.